

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 1 - 14 are pending the case. Claims 1 - 9 have been amended.
Claims 10 - 14 have been added.

The specification has been amended to correct reference numbers so that the specification agrees with the drawings.

The drawings have been amended and replacement sheets 1-3 have been submitted. In particular, Fig. 2b has been corrected to remove redundant reference number 20 and its leader lines. Fig. 4 has been amended to add reference numbers 38 and 32 and the respective leader lines for pointing out a hole and a chip respectively on the rail 30. Fig. 5 has been amended to replace the existing reference number 34 with reference number 38 directed to the hole and to add reference number 34 and leader lines directed to the bent portion of the rail. No new matter has been added to either the specification or the drawings.

Claim 2 is objected to because of an informality. Claim 2 has now been amended to claim an improvement wherein said elongate member is orientated and secured to the plurality of clips so that the elongate member is positioned....

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida (U.S. Patent No. 5,460,257). Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view Kempen (U.S. Patent No. 5,178,263). The rejections of the claims are traversed. The Examiner provides Fig. 13 of Yoshida pointing to reference number 127 as a plurality of clips. The clips in Yoshida 127 are not secured to a bottom edge of the elongate member as pointed out as 126 in Fig. 13. Further, the clips 127 in Yoshida are not provided for securing the elongate member 126 to one of the U-shaped sidebars by selectively clipping the clip around at least a portion of the vertical web and outwardly extending horizontal flange. The parallel sidebar 8 in Yoshida does not have a U-shaped configuration. Further, the clips 127 in Yoshida do not clip around at least a portion of the vertical web and outwardly extending horizontal flange of the U-shaped sidebar for securing the elongate member of two of the sidebars. In contrast, the clips

require a nut and bolt 128 to secure the clip to the sidebar 8. One of the purposes of the current invention is to eliminate the requirement of the nut and bolt to secure a end rail along the side of the conveyor system.

Regarding Fig. 3, although Kempen shows the use of welding, the positioning of the weld of the clip to the lower edge of elongate member allows the clip to be easily attached to the sidebar and is not shown by Kempen. Welding the clip to the lower edge of the elongate member allows the clip in the present invention to be positioned directly below the elongate member or for positioning the elongate member directly above each clip so that the clips can easily clip over the sidebar without interference from a nut or bolt. With the configuration of the subject clips, the nut and bolt used in Yoshida would not be applicable to connect the clips to the elongate member without interference when trying to install the clips on the sidebar. As can be seen in Yoshida, the elongate member 126 is not directly above the clip 127; and in fact is laterally adjacent to the clip. Therefore the clip and guard rail combination in Yoshida would not be usable on a guide rail having parallel sidebars which are U-shaped as stated in claim 1.

Claim 5 has been amended to require that each clip has a U-shaped configuration corresponding to a portion of the U-shaped sidebar and with a middle section welded to the elongate member. None of the prior art show a clip having a U-shaped configuration that corresponds to a portion of a U-shaped sidebar.

Claim 6 has been amended to detail that the outer flange is longer than the inner flange of the clip and has a bent end portion for directing between the upper and lower outwardly extending horizontal flanges to provide balance when the clips are secured to the sidebar. This feature is not shown or disclosed in any of the prior art.

Claim 7 has been amended to require that the elongate member has angle ends for guiding articles on the conveying element. This feature is not shown or disclosed in the prior art.

New claims 10-14 have been added which include features not shown or disclosed in the cited prior art.

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This amendment should place this case in condition for passing to issue.

Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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